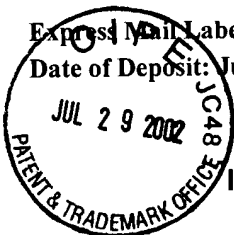


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PATENT APPLICATION

Atty Docket: 15966-539 CPA2 (Cura-39 CPA2)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S):

Rothberg et al.

CPA OF SERIAL NO.:

09/417,386

EXAMINER: Janell E. Taylor

PARENT APPLICATION FILING DATE:

October 13, 1999

ART UNIT: 1653

FOR:

METHOD OF IDENTIFYING NUCLEIC ACIDS

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Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

### AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows, prior to examination, and consider the remarks in response to the final Office Action, mailed January 29, 2002, for the parent application.

#### In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 31, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Replace the pending claims with the following:

- 
1. (Twice Amended) A method of screening a population of nucleic acids to identify a novel sequence, the method comprising:
    - providing a population of cDNA molecules derived from a population of RNA molecules;
    - partitioning said cDNA population into one or more subpopulations of nucleic acid sequences,
    - wherein said partitioning step comprises digesting the cDNA molecules with one or more restriction enzymes;
    - sequencing at least one nucleic acid sequence in the subpopulation to provide a first nucleic acid sequence; and
    - determining whether the first nucleic acid sequence is identical to a reference nucleic acid sequence, whereby the first nucleic acid is novel if the first nucleic acid sequence is not identical to the reference nucleic acid sequence.
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